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Rec'd: February 10, 1953
8:25 p.m.

FROM: New Delhi

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 3210, February 10, 7 p.m.

State Dept. declassification instructions on file

FROM BOWLES.

Recently Department requested information as to any evidence that members of Soviet Mission in New Delhi had expanded their social activities or attempted become more friendly with members our Embassy.

In our opinion this trend now very marked and seems indicate shift in tactics. In September and October Soviet Amb, Novikov pointly snubbed me on several occasions although at times in the past he had been reasonably affable at parties.

At Republic Day celebration January 26 he went out of his way speak to me and introuce his wife, recently arrived in Delhi, to me and Mrs. Bowles. Novikov is senior member of Diplomatic Corps and since Mrs. Bowles had not (repeat not) yet called on Mrs. Novikov she asked me what she should do. I advised her to request appointment and see what happened. Request immediately acted upon and within two days she was invited to tea, at which Mrs. Novikov spoke through interpreter, about trivial things.

Few days later Mrs. Novikov called on Mrs. Bowles with her interpreter and stayed half an hour.

Although Novikov had refused come to our Washington Birthday celebration year ago he appeared at Lincoln's Birthday celebration on Saturday and remained one hour. At least five members of Soviet Mission were also present.

American newspaper reporters in Delhi are agreed that there has been marked change in Soviet attitude. Two have recently been asked to dinner by Tass representative and one was even introduced to Chinese press representative who was almost cordial.

Other members of Embassy agree that change in attitude of members of Soviet Mission quite apparent at diplomatic functions in Delhi.

Chinese, however, remain completely frigid. By mistake Mrs. Bowles ran head on into wife of Chinese Ambassador two or three

-2- 3210, February 10, 7 p.m., from New Delhi.

months ago who was talking with friend. Wife of Chinese Ambassador pointedly refused Mrs. Bowles outstretched hand.

Chinese Army, Air and Naval Attaches live next door to us and all members of household have clearly been instructed not (repeat not) acknowledge any member my family in any way. My daughter Sally has been able wangle smiles from some of younger Chinese children but she reports no (repeat no) progress above age of ten.

BOWLES

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